



USAID
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KEY GENDER AND CONFLICT WEB SITES

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Research Presentation on Best Practices and Lessons Learned by Alice Morton and Jackie Vavra, Management Systems International

Excerpt from: Resource Guide: Gender and Conflict in Africa

Accord—an international review of peace initiatives

<http://www.c-r.org/accord/index.shtml>

Working collaboratively with locally based organizations, the Accord Program provides in-depth research and analysis of particular issues regarding the peace process. The reports generated by this project are geared towards: documenting peace processes and initiatives and the sources and dynamics of particular conflicts; increasing public access, both locally and internationally to the understanding of peace processes and peace agreements; and promoting learning, domestically and internationally from past and comparable peace making experiences. The publication series has each issue set within a broader project around the chosen theme. Past issues have analyzed: engaging armed groups; Angola; public participation; Northern Uganda; and Sierra Leone, among others.

American Refugee Committee

<http://www.arc.org>

The American Refugee Committee is an international nonprofit, nonsectarian organization that has provided humanitarian aid and training to millions of beneficiaries over the past 25 years. The American Refugee Committee works for the survival, health and well being of refugees, displaced people, and those at risk, enabling them to rebuild productive lives of dignity and purpose, striving always to respect their values. ARC insists on involving the people they serve in the planning and implementation of their efforts. This participatory approach is critical to the sustainability of their programs.

Clingendael

<http://www.clingendael.nl/cru/>

The Clingendael Research Unit (CRU) is part of the Clingendael research department. The unit focuses on the study of intrastate conflict and on ways of preventing and dealing with these conflicts. The research group works in a number of practice areas and in 2001-2002 conducted a study of 'Gender and Armed Conflict' that was commissioned by the Directorate 'Coordination Emancipation Policy' of the Netherlands Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. It consists of three phases. The first phase comprises a study of relevant literature on the dynamic role and position of 'local' women in conflict situations and on the ways gender relations are impacted by internal conflict. The second phase examines how a number of selected agencies (e.g. UNDP, DPKO, OSCE, WFP, ICRC) working in conflict to integrate a gender perspective in their policy practice, by looking at, among others, their mandates, structures, policies, operational procedures and policy implementation as well as assessing the available gender expertise. The third phase will suggest means and instruments to strengthen the gender perspective of these organizations in order to actually improve the position of women in conflict situations.

Femmes Africa Solidarite (FAS)

<http://www.fasngo.org/en/activities/advocacy/lala.htm>

Through its lobbying and advocacy activities, Femmes Africa Solidarite (FAS) implements a forceful strategy to mobilize, articulate and represent women's interests and concerns. It aims to promote gender issues as central to policy development and legislation at the national, regional and international levels. At the regional level, for example, FAS's advocacy program resulted in gender parity in the African Union Commission and the adoption of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. FAS also publishes Advocacy News, a newsletter published in English. As an advocacy tool, it analyses and reports on the role of women in peace initiatives and monitors progress in gender, peace, development and related issues in Africa, highlighting the contribution of African women leaders in the peace process.

FEMNET – The African Women's Development and Communication Network

www.femnet.or.ke

FEMNET was set up in 1988 to share information, experiences, ideas and strategies among African women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs) through communications, networking, training and advocacy to advance women's development, equality and other women's human rights in Africa. FEMNET aims to strengthen the role and contribution of African NGOs focusing on women's development, equality and other human rights. It also aims to provide an infrastructure for and a channel through which these NGOs can reach one another and share information, experiences and strategies to as to improve their input into women's development, equality and other women's human rights in Africa. FEMNET works throughout Africa and concentrates its activities in four primary programs: advocacy, training, communications/information, and engaging the Commission on the Status of Women.

Gender and Peace building Working Group, Canadian Peace building Coordinating Committee

<http://www.peacebuild.ca/working/?load=gender>

GPWG goals include focus on achieving progress in translating the general international commitments that have been made on gender equality and peace building into concrete actions in specific situations and to promote the active participation and recognition of the contribution women have made to human security and peace building.

GPWG activities include: raising public awareness about how age and gender can determine how people are affected by conflict and how their needs and priorities vary in peace building and post-conflict reconstruction; building political support for the contribution women make to building peace and encourage their equitable and effective participation and integration into national, regional and international fora; advocating for the integration of a gender perspective in Canada's foreign policy agenda, particularly in: conflict prevention, human security during conflict, conflict resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction and reintegration; engaging and maintaining dialogue with members of parliament, government officials and members of the Canadian Committee on Women Peace and Security; maintaining a list-serv on relevant issues; publishing and disseminating documents and research on issues related to gender and peace building; supporting capacity strengthening of member organizations.

Human Rights Watch

http://hrw.org/doc/?t=women_pub

The Women's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch fights against the dehumanization and marginalization of women. Promoting women's equal rights and human dignity, HRW conducts research specifically on the links between women, armed conflict, and international justice. In Africa they have produced in-depth reports on the conflicts in Sudan, Congo, Burundi, Sierra Leone, and Rwanda.

IDP Project and Database of the Norwegian Refugee Council in cooperation with UN OCHA

<http://www.idpproject.org>

The Geneva-based Global IDP Project was established by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in 1996, mainly in response to growing information needs related to internal displacement. The outbreak of numerous new conflicts in the early 1990s had led to a sharp increase in the number of internally displaced people, but only fragmented information existed about their assistance and protection needs. In a first attempt to close this information gap, the Norwegian Refugee Council in 1998 published the first-ever global survey of internal displacement.

At the same time, the Global IDP Project entered into discussions with the United Nations on the creation of an electronic archive on internal displacement. In late 1998 the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee endorsed the outsourcing of the development of an IDP database to the NRC, with the objective of creating an authoritative information source on internal displacement. Based on this mandate, the NRC's Global IDP Project developed an integrated online information system, which was launched in December 1999. During the following years, the Global IDP Project further expanded the database, developed a [training programme](#) on the Guiding Principles, and established itself as an important [advocate](#) for the rights of internally displaced people.

Indigenous Knowledge – World Bank Website

<http://www.worldbank.org/afr/ik/>

The Indigenous Knowledge (IK) Program's website opens a gateway to different sources on IK. It aims to facilitate a multilateral dialogue between local communities, NGOs, governments, donors, civil society and the private sector. The ultimate objective of the website is to help mainstream indigenous/traditional knowledge into the activities of development partners and to optimize the benefits of development assistance, especially to the poor. These goals are being achieved through different strategies. They include a database on indigenous/traditional knowledge and practices with over 300 case studies and a series of "IK Notes" which present in some detail, locally driven solutions to complex issues. The Program also supports over 15 resource centers across Africa that focus on identification and dissemination of indigenous/traditional knowledge and practices. Working with governments and local partners, the Program has also begun to help mainstream the application of IK in World Bank projects and in national development programs.

International Alert

<http://www.international-alert.org/women/>

International Alert's Gender and Peace building Program has evolved out of their global campaign, Women Building Peace: From the Village Council to the Negotiating Table. Informed by discussions with partners, policy makers and others, the program has now shifted its focus and direction from overtly campaigning on women's issues to more of a focus on gender dynamics.

The program is comprised of two interlinked and interdependent projects - the Gender Peace Audit that works at the local, national and regional level and the Global Policy Project that focuses on the international and regional policy level. These two projects work in synergy to promote gender sensitive and gender aware policies rooted in local realities.

The International Committee of the Red Cross

<http://www.icrc.org/eng/women>

ICRC has a series of programs focusing on "Prevention and Protection" that attempt to both prevent conflict and provide resources to ensure the security of vulnerable people such as women, children and IDPs throughout the world. The programs include: conducting sessions with armed forces and armed opposition groups around the world in which messages about the needs of women and the prohibition of sexual violence are integrated; visiting persons deprived of their freedom in relation to armed conflict. The organization supports psychosocial workshops for families of the missing and provides them with material or administrative assistance; developing strategies for providing medical and psychological care for victims of sexual violence, including those that are difficult to reach because of the taboo and shame associated with sexual violence; providing support by devising appropriate programs which will help women regain autonomy and dignity; ensuring that women have the same access as men to physical rehabilitation programs.

Isis – Women's Intl Cross cultural exchange

<http://www.isis.or.ug/about.htm>

Isis – WICCE relocated to Kampala, Uganda at the end of 1993 with an objective of tapping African women's ideas, views and problems and sharing the information with women at the international level. Since the move to Kampala, Isis-WICCE started National-and regional level programs to facilitate the flow of information from Uganda to other parts of Africa and the rest of the world, and to contribute towards the strengthening of the Uganda and African women's movement. The program's activities include: Documenting, repackaging and disseminating issue oriented information to different target groups as a means of addressing injustices; adopting innovative means of information sharing and capacity building to promote gender equality and redress violations committed against women; influencing policy makers and civil society about gender sensitivity and self determination of women; cultivating mutually beneficial networking relationships with other organizations at the national, regional and international level; enabling women to deliberate together and work towards building a culture of peace.

Mano River Women's Peace Network

<http://www.marwopnet.org/welcome.htm>

Since its creation, MARWOPNET has participated in ECOWAS summits and the African Union to revive African leaders' interest in the unfortunate dramas experienced by women and children of the Mano River basin as well as their commitment to invest in a rapid resolution of these conflicts. The network organized many workshops to reinforce capacities, raise funds and lobby network members as well as those of civil society organizations in light of their implication in the peace process of the West African sub-region. MARWOPNET promotes social mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives geared to civil populations.

Complementing initiatives include regular meetings with development partners; political, religious and traditional leaders. The network also attracts the attention of political and administrative and organizational leaders on issues and obstacles in reconciliation and reconstruction in the Mano River Union basin.

Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe

<http://www.profemme.org.rw/home.htm>

Through "promoting a culture of peace" Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe attempts to intensify Peace Action Campaigns (CAP) actions through different organizations and grassroots groups, start CAP activities in areas not yet covered, continue synergies at national level and partners involved in the preparation of national policy in peace education field, prepare Pan-African Conference activities, promote inter-relationships with programs considered as concrete actions that CAP has highlighted, and involve the program in the country's sector based policies, promote justice, security and equality. Other components of the program include providing training and education to women to increase their intervention capacity, advocating for the inclusion of women in housing (re) construction processes, and increasing the economic empowerment of women through the provision of credit and training.

Raising Voice

www.raisingvoices.org/declaration.shtml

Raising Voices is a registered non-profit project of the Tides Center working to create and promote community-based approaches to preventing violence against women and children. The organization advocates for and supports the development of sustainable programs working to prevent domestic violence in communities in East and Southern Africa.

They have developed a number of resources to aid in programming that include violence prevention tools, a resource guide, technical support and partnerships, and regional dialogue. Raising Voices also aims to influence practice by engaging policy makers, organizations and other stakeholders in a dialogue on how they conceptualize violence programming. Through this program they work to build infrastructure in the region for increased interest and investment of resources for violence prevention initiatives.

Reproductive Health Response in Conflict (RHRC)

www.rhrc.org

The Reproductive Health Response in Conflict (RHRC) Consortium is dedicated to the promotion of reproductive health among all persons affected by armed conflict. The RHRC Consortium promotes sustained access to comprehensive, high quality reproductive health programs in emergencies and advocates for policies that support reproductive health of persons affected by armed conflict. Its areas of expertise are: service provision to expand and improve reproductive health services for refugee women, men and adolescents; promoting the inclusion of reproductive health as part of the initial and ongoing needs assessments in emergency and stable refugee situations; designing monitoring and evaluation methods for reproductive health projects in refugee settings; training to promote the use of existing training modules and develop, adapt and test new modules to improve reproductive health education and services; and research to pursue a select research agenda to improve service delivery and funding for refugee reproductive health; operating a small grants program; to advocate improved reproductive health services among agencies funding or providing assistance to refugees; and to document and disseminate information on reproductive health in refugee settings to refugee communities, field staff, managers, policy makers and donors.

Siyanda

<http://www.siyanda.org/index.htm>

Siyanda aims to bring growing resources to support practitioners in implementing gender programs and in mainstreaming gender equality concerns, whether they are gender specialists or not. The organization's main objectives are: presenting short summaries of on-line work to save busy practitioners time in searching for relevant information; enabling users to download full-length materials quickly and easily, free of charge; facilitating a culture of sharing information and materials on gender and development among people working in this field; working with partner organizations across the world to build an online space that reflects their interests and needs and that connects them with like-minded colleagues.

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

www.unifem.org

UNIFEM works on several fronts to interrupt the cycle of violence against women, with an overall objective of linking violence to the source that feeds it: gender inequality. UNIFEM multiplies the power of its groundbreaking strategies through advocacy campaigns and close partnerships with governments, women's groups and other branches of the UN system. UNIFEM works in the following areas: promoting protective laws and national actions; collecting data and research on violence against women; supporting prevention initiatives from the local to the international level, including in conflict and post-conflict situations, where violence against women is prevalent and horrific; supporting women's organizations and drawing attention and resources to these efforts; and establishing the Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women that offers grants to innovative projects to prevent violence that are run by community, national and regional organizations. With relatively modest sums, grantees have passed new laws, trained police, and involved men and boys in stopping violence.

United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/>

Aiming to ensure the participation of women as equal partners with men in all aspects of human endeavor, this Division of the UN promotes women as equal participants and beneficiaries of sustainable development, peace and security, governance and human rights. As part of its mandate, it strives to stimulate the mainstreaming of gender perspectives both within and outside the United Nations system. Broken down into six specific strategic objectives that are designed to be applicable on a global scale, the UNDAW aims to: increase the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels and protect women living in situations of armed and other conflicts or under foreign occupation; reduce excessive military expenditures and control the availability of armaments; promote non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reduce the incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations; promote women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace; provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women and provide assistance to the women of the colonies and non-self-governing territories.

West African Network for Peace building (WANEP)

<http://www.wanep.org/index.html>

Work began in 1990 to establish a regional network of peacebuilding initiatives in West Africa. This arose as a result of the Liberia civil war, which necessitated the creation of a regional peace intervention force. Religious and civil society groups were mobilized to collectively participate in active peacebuilding. In the northern region of Ghana a consortium of non-governmental organizations with funding support from the British High Commission in Ghana became actively involved in peacebuilding to respond to inter-communal violence that threatened Ghana's stability. A similar experience of cooperative action was witnessed in Sierra Leone in May 1997 when a civil society movement comprising all sectors of that society mobilized against military rule and successfully saw the ousting of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC). The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) was born out of these experiences.

After a feasibility study conducted throughout the sub-region, representatives of seven West African countries in 1998 officially launched WANEP in Accra Ghana. Many of the delegates at the launch of WANEP were key actors in the civil society collective actions outlined above. They created WANEP

as a mechanism to harness peacebuilding initiatives and to strengthen collective interventions that were already bearing good fruits in Liberia, the Northern Region of Ghana, and Sierra Leone.

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children

<http://www.womenscommission.org/>

The Women's Commission's Protection and Participation Program works to improve refugee women's protection in war-affected areas overseas and to increase their participation in planning and managing assistance programs. The Commission works in five main areas that address the specific needs of women and children displaced by conflict: the Protection Partners program (monitoring of displaced women and children), working with the UN to ensure the Millennium Development Goals include displaced women and children and are made accountable to displaced populations, conducting assessments of UNHCR, encourage coalition-building of organization to advocate for peace, reconstruction, and security, and supporting displaced women's involvement and ability to speak out and voice their opinions and needs.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

<http://www.peacewomen.org>

Within the overall framework of Building a Culture of Peace, WILPF's main interlinked activities include: To strengthen capacity of women in peace building in national network structures; localize training methodologies through translation into indigenous West African languages; provide a forum for grassroots participation in issues on women, peace and security by airing the 'Voices of Women' radio program; promote women's participation in formal peace building initiatives in West Africa.

Women Waging Peace

<http://www.womenwagingpeace.net>

Women Waging Peace Inclusive Security sector advocates for the full participation of all stakeholders, especially women, in formal and informal peace processes around the world by [building a network](#) of women peacemakers [making the case](#) that women make vital contributions to conflict prevention, peace negotiations, and post-conflict reconstruction efforts; and [shaping public policy](#) by generating support from policymakers for women's agency in promoting security. In Africa, Women Waging Peace manages programs in Burundi, DRC, Eritrea, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Sudan that focus on women's role in conflict prevention, peace negotiations, and post-conflict reconstruction.

Women for Women International

<http://www.womenforwomen.org/ourwork.html>

Working primarily with the DRC, Nigeria, and Rwanda in Africa, Women for Women International utilizes a tiered program that begins with direct financial and emotional support, advocates for awareness of women's rights, offers vocational and business skills training, and provides access to income-generation support and affordable micro credit loans. These programs aim to provide women with the resources necessary to overcome the horrors of war and help them rebuild their lives, families, and communities.